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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 711
By Montgomery

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Patricia Ellingwood of Sevierville on being named a finalist for the 2002 Prudential Spirit of Community Award.

WHEREAS, members of this General Assembly are pleased and proud to honor those young Tennesseans who give unselfishly of their time and energy to serve their communities through volunteer efforts; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Patricia Ellingwood, an esteemed resident of Sevierville and a Senior at Sevier County High School, has achieved recognition for exemplary volunteer service by being named a finalist in the Seventh Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award, presented by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, honors young volunteers across America who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, all public and private middle level and high schools in the country, along with all Girl Scout councils and county 4-H organizations, were eligible to nominate a student or

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member for a local award this past November; local honorees were then reviewed by state-level judges, who selected State Honorees and Distinguished Finalists based on criteria such as personal initiative, creativity, effort, impact, and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Ellingwood will receive an engraved bronze medallion at a celebratory ceremony held in Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, Patricia was recognized for generously giving of her time and energy to organize "Who Wants to be a Donor?", a program modeled after a popular TV game show which raises awareness about organ donation and encourages people to sign organ donor cards; and

WHEREAS, she epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; she takes her place among the many noble citizens who have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, the viability of our lives together as citizens of Tennessee and of our local communities, as well as the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Patricia Ellingwood who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to acknowledge the contributions of our best and brightest young people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this legislative body hereby congratulates Ms. Patricia Ellingwood upon being named a Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, recognizes her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership and community spirit, and extends to her our best wishes for happiness and every success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.